

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: ASJ-200307930
EVALUATOR: Ms. A. Susan Jarvis
PHONE NO.: (601) 631-5146
FAX NO.: (601) 631-5459
E-MAIL: regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE: April 15, 2004
EXPIRATION DATE: May 6, 2004

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has a copy of the application on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:

Louisiana Department of
Transportation and Development
Post Office Box 94245
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Name of Agent:

Mr. Jeff Robinson
Louisiana TIMED Managers, Inc.
Suite 200
6300 Corporate Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Location of Work: Sections 2, 11, 14, and 23 of T19N-R3W and sections 26, 27, and 35 of T20N-R3W, latitude 32°38'10" longitude 92°38'28", within the Bayou D'Arbonne Drainage Basin, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to mechanically clear and fill 9.66 acres of wetlands and 2.30 acres of other waters of the United States associated with the construction and maintenance of the widening and overlay of U.S. Highway 167.

The project would begin on U.S. Highway 167 at the north end of Vienna and extend in a northerly direction ending north of the Bayou D'Arbonne relief bridge at the south end of Dubach. At the project start, the existing highway would remain in place for northbound traffic between Vienna and the junction of Louisiana Highway 822. A new two lane asphaltic concrete roadway would be constructed, separated by a 66-foot-wide depressed median from the existing highway to the west of the existing highway for the southbound traffic. A new four-lane section, approximately 0.8 mile of the project located in the vicinity of Station No. (STA.) 50+200 to 51+400 would be constructed on a new alignment and the existing highway in this area would be removed. For portion of the project from Louisiana Highway 822 to the south end of Dubach, the existing roadway would remain for the southbound traffic and two new lanes of asphaltic concrete would be constructed for northbound traffic to the east of the existing highway for the first 0.3 mile section located in the vicinity of STA. 535+50 to 544+00. The remaining portion of the project located in the vicinity of STA. 543+00 to 570+00, would consist of a new four-lane section. The new two lane sections as well as the new four lane sections would be separated by a 66-foot-wide depressed median. Roadbed dimensions for the new highway would average 140 feet top width and 260 feet bottom width. The cleared right-of-way width would be a minimum of 325 feet to a maximum of approximately 460 feet south of Bayou D'Arbonne. The project would require approximately 1,488,300 cubic yards of general excavation and 568,800 cubic yards of embankment. The project would be approximately 5.5 miles in length.

The purpose of the work is to widen and upgrade the existing U.S. Highway 167 roadway to provide a four lane north-south link from Alexandria to the Arkansas state line to improve vehicular

mobility and to improve accessibility along U.S. Highway 167 corridor by increasing the safety and level of service of the highway.

The proposed project calls for the existing U.S. Highway 167 from the north end of Vienna to just north of the Bayou D'Arbonne relief bridge at the south end of Dubach in Lincoln Parish to be four-laned and upgraded to meet current transportation standards. This proposed project is the result of legislation created in 1989 known as the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED), which designated certain highways and transportation facilities for improvement. One objective of the TIMED program is to ensure that a four-laned highway connects most major urban areas of the state. The four-laning of the U.S. Highway 167 is an important element in linking central Louisiana with areas of north Louisiana to the Arkansas state line.

A total of ten sites were delineated and four sites were identified as wetlands which would be impacted by the project. Site V02 covered an area located in the vicinity of STA. 50+150 to 51+050 and would impact approximately 8.2 acres of wetlands. Sites V05 and V06 covered an area located in the vicinity of STA. 52+270 to 53+085 and would impact approximately 0.24 acre. Site D03 covered an area in the vicinity of STA. 563+70 to 565+70 and would impact approximately 1.22 acres of wetlands.

The dominant species of vegetation at the four delineated wetland sites include: *Acer rubrum*, *Ampelopsis arborea*, *Andropogon virginicus*, *Baccharis halimifolia*, *Betula nigra*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Brunnichia ovata*, *Callicarpa americana*, *Carya aquatica*, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, *Chasmanthium sessiflorum*, *Commelina virginica*, *Dichanthelium sp.*, *Eleocharis sp.*, *Eupatorium capillifolium*, *Helianthus sp.*, *Heliotropium indicum*, *Hypericum fasciculatum*, *Juncus effusus*, *Ligustrum sinense*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Ludwigia peploides*, *Mitchella repens*, *Nyssa aquatica*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Panicum virgatum*, *Paspalum dilatatum*, *Paspalum repens*, *Paspalum urvillei*, *Polygonum densiflorum*, *Polygonum virginianum*, *Quercus michauxii*, *Quercus nigra*, *Quercus phellos*, *Rhynchospora corniculata*, *Rubus trivialis*, *Rumex crispus*, *Smilax sp.*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Vaccinium elliotii*, and *Xyris sp.*

A total of 9.66 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project including the cleared right-of-way. The applicant proposes to begin mitigation for the wetlands being impacted by construction activities for this project by minimizing impacts in accordance with their standard specifications. Unavoidably lost wetland functions and values will be appropriately mitigated.

A total of 2.301 acres of other waters of the United States would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project including the cleared right-of-way. Seven of the ten delineated sites were identified as other waters of the United States.

The locations and amounts of impacts for these sites are shown in the Wetland Delineation Site Summary Tables (Tables 1 and 2).

The existing bridges over the Cypress Creek (STA. 50+676 to 50+594), over Bayou D'Arbonne (STA. 563+51 to 565+76), and over the Bayou D'Arbonne relief (STA. 568+18 to STA. 569+08) would be removed. The two proposed bridges over Cypress Creek located in the vicinity of STA. 50+676 to 50+946 would be twin slab span bridges, 800 feet in length. The two proposed bridges over Bayou D'Arbonne located in the vicinity of STA. 563+18 to 569+08 would be twin girder bridge structures. The two proposed bridges over the Bayou D'Arbonne relief located in the vicinity of STA. 568+18 to 569+08 would be twin girder bridge structures. Impacts to the wetlands associated with bridge construction would include approach and revetment work.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing and levee construction requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Lincoln Parish listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and advise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

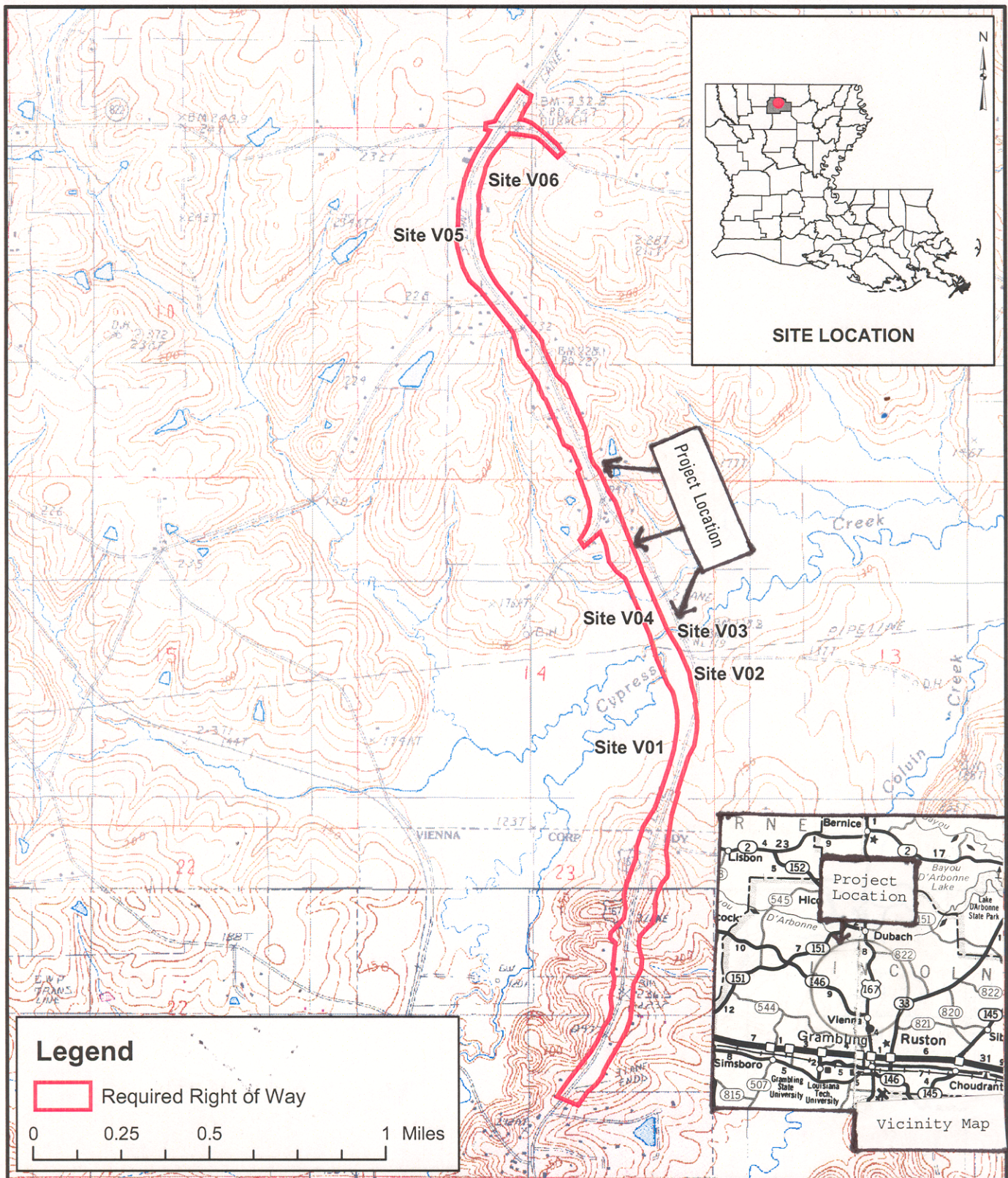
Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the

Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.

W. Harold Lee
Team Leader, Evaluation Section
Regulatory Branch



Legend

Required Right of Way

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

State Project 023-10-0035
 Vienna - Jct. La 822
 U.S. Highway 167, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series Quadrangles

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WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 1
STATE PROJECT NO. 023-10-0035
U.S. Highway 167 – Vienna – Jct. Louisiana Highway 822
Lincoln Parish, Louisiana
SITES (V01-V06)

Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
V01	50+000	50+150	--	--	Drain
V02	50+150	51+050	8.2	1.28	BLH/CC
V03	51+640		--	--	Scour
V04	52+100		--	0.03	Drain
V05	52+270	52+760	0.2	0.014	H/Drain
V06	53+040	53+085	0.04	--	SS
Totals			8.44	1.324	

Legend: BLH–Bottomland Hardwood, CC–Cypress Creek and Cypress Creek Relief,
H–Herbaceous Wetland, SS–Shrub/Scrub

WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 2
STATE PROJECT NO. 023-10-0039
U.S. Highway 167, Jct. Louisiana Highway 822 – Dubach
Lincoln Parish, Louisiana
SITES (D01-D04)

Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
D01	545+30		--	0.227	PS
D02	562+35		--	0.32	IS
D03	563+80	565+70	1.22	0.3	BLH/CS/BD
D04	568+05	568+80	--	0.13	IS
Totals			1.22	0.977	

Legend: PS–Perennial Stream, IS–Intermittent Stream, BLH–Bottomland Hardwood,
CS–Cypress Slough, BD–Bayou D’Arbonne

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